



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS® of METROPOLITAN PHOENIX

September 2016 Calendar & Comments

Elections 2016

Voter registration deadline: October 10
Early voting begins -- October 12
Final day to request an early ballot – October 28
General Election, November 8

**LWVMP is partnering with National Voter Registration Day
on our own Facebook event!
Tuesday, September 27**

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/187205641701642/>
to join the conversation!

The public will be directed to our website at www.LWVMetrophoenix.org
to download a "Do-It-Yourself Voter Registration Event Kit" to print.

**Presidential Debates
September 26, October 4, October 9, October 19**

Watching debates is one of the best ways that we can educate ourselves before we head to the voting booth. Luckily, when it comes to figuring out how to get the most out of debate-watching (and having fun while doing it!), LWV has your back.

Take a look at the LWV Debate-Watching Kit:

Tips for evaluating candidates, throwing a debate-watching party, and more!
<http://lww.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit>

**Secretary of State
Ballot Measure Town Halls (free)**

First one: Monday, October 3, 6:30 pm

South Mountain Community College Library (Community Room), 7050 S. 24th Street, Phoenix

<http://www.azsos.gov/elections/elections-calendar-upcoming-events>

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Candidate Debates

<http://www.azcleelections.gov/en/calendar>

Candidate Compass

Compare your positions on issues with those of the Corporation Commission and Legislative candidates. Easy!

<http://www.azcleelections.gov/en/candidate-compass>

Corporation Commission Candidate Debate

Friday, Oct. 28 (8:30 am coffee, 9 -11am)

Sponsored by AAUW; more info to come.

Democracy in Action

Your League dues supports education and advocacy at all levels of League!

Alison Brevard will represent LWVMP on a YWCA-hosted coalition of organizations that are meeting to establish goals/plans for eliminating racism.

Alison noted that "The YWCA has set up upon a very good path. On August 23rd, I represented the League at one of the YWCA's first coalition meetings on eliminating racism in this country. Caucasion, African American, and Latina participants attended the breakfast meeting to talk and to make plans." Advocacy Committee meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the YWCA offices: 2999 N. 44th St., Phoenix, 85018. Next meeting is October 4.

League Sends Comments to Census Bureau

The League sent comments to the U.S. Census Bureau regarding the decision to continue using the "usual residence" rule. The rule counts incarcerated citizens at their prison addresses rather than their home address. The League believes that the Bureau's decision undermines the redistricting process in states across the country by distorting state and federal legislative districts. This upsets the balance of power and disproportionately under-represents minority populations in communities across the country.

The League joined Project Vote and Common Cause on a brief in the case of *A. Phillip Randolph Inst. v. Husted* in 6th Circuit Appeals Court. The brief argues that methods used by the state of Ohio to remove voters based on their voting status from the voting rolls should be prohibited. Purging voters from the rolls because they didn't vote in previous elections creates confusion for voters and is in direct violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Voters Win Major Civil Rights Challenge

Illegal Action Had Blocked Eligible Citizens from Registering, Voting

The League of Women Voters has just won a major federal voting rights case. A federal appeals court blocked the illegal action of Brian Newby, U.S. Election Assistance Commission executive director, who earlier this year unilaterally allowed Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require voters to produce difficult-to-obtain proof of citizenship documentation when completing the federal mail voter registration form. This action has illegally kept voters from the polls, caused confusion, and threatened the lawful voter registration efforts of the League and other groups.

League Files Amicus Brief in *Juliana et al v. United States*

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) filed an [amicus brief](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in the case of *Juliana et al v. United States*. The Leagues support the 21 young people from across the United States who have filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via the Eugene, Oregon- based organization, Our Children's Trust.

LWVMP Admin/Member News

Member Doris Krigbaum has a new address:

5848 N. Placita Esplendor
Tucson, AZ 85718

Solicitation City!

We've heard complaints about the number of competing solicitations members get from various levels of LWV(National in particular). Yes, it's true. There are issues here, and we have representatives trying to address this with National.

There is a new task force that has formed to address membership structure in a much broader way. Robyn Prud'homme Bauer (former LWVAZ President) is on it. There are going to be some major changes, she says. So, take a breath, donate only if you can and delete away as necessary. And have hope!

Once Again, Can You Do:

Just ONE Thing!
A Letter from Judy Levine

If you are reading this, you are already a member of the League of Women Voters and believe in its mission: **to let the people know ... make the people care ... help the people act** as participating citizens of our great nation.

To get the most out of your membership and to assist us to do more as we grow, I am asking you to select “just one thing” you can do as a member. Below is a list of areas in which we need assistance.

Contact **Judy Levine, Membership**, at **480 907-6800**, or judlev2@gmail.com if you have an interest in, skills, or experience with areas in the list below. I’ll be happy to explain more specifically where we need help and try to match that to your interests. You’ll do as much or little as you wish. **This request comes with a guarantee. . .** Get involved and you will meet a variety of very interesting women from very varied backgrounds, will broaden your interests, increase your skills, become more aware of what is happening and have a good time. If you don’t, I’ll buy you lunch! Now, when did you last get an offer like that? Long-time member or brand new to the League. . . we need you all!! Please contact me.

- radio and other media
- twitter
- fund-raising
- education (financing and policy)
- event planning
- alternative energies
- environmental issues including land use
- health care
- children’s issues
- voter registration
- contact with other organizations

Subscribe to LWVUS *The Leaders' Update* found at LWV.org:

Send an email to: database@lww.org
with the Subject Line "Subscribe to Leaders' Update".

**What's Been Going On for LWVMP This Month? LWVMP has been Busy!
Your Local League...**



Suffragettes Andi & Care

- Trained members to present information about state ballot measures on Fair Wages and Tax & Regulating Marijuana
- Delivered talks and discussions to various groups about the Nov. 8th propositions
- Provided voter registration services and voting information at college campuses
- Distributed thousands of LWVAZ Voter Guides
- Updated LWVMP website and Facebook pages with relevant voting information
- Planned Facebook events for U.S. Constitution & National Voter Registration Days
- Held Phoenix and Scottsdale Community Team meetings
- Participated with Anne Guerrant and a Coalition of Women's Groups to Celebrate the 19th Amendment & Women's Suffrage

--And Participated in Running and Winning with 100 Coronado High School Senior girls, AAUW & 40 Women Elected Officials



Leaguer Jennifer Quinn on the left



Alice, Barbara, Doris, Judy, Rivko, Vickie, & Care

The Latest News: Clean Elections Commission

This information is not only interesting, but important. Please take the time to read it.

Excerpts from a report by Samantha Pstross, League member and Executive Director, Arizona Advocacy Network and Foundation

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission in August voted 3-2 to change their rules based on HB2296 (the Commission chose Option 1--which was discussed in the last C&C), which we believe violates the Voter Protection Act, because the new rules will not further the Clean Elections Act. HOWEVER, this will not take effect until January 2017. Complaints can still be filed with the CCEC this election cycle.

Arizona Advocacy Network has been in talks about litigating against SB1516, HB2296 and HB2297. The Commission's ruling will most likely effect this.

Thank you to everyone who wrote in favor of choosing Option 2 (do nothing). In fact, all of the public comment supported Option 2 with the exception of a letter from Elections Director Eric Spencer, who wrote the Commissioners just before their meeting started this morning urging them not to choose any of the options. He thinks that all 3 options are problematic, but did not explain why.

Commissioners Kimble and Meyer were the two who voted against it. They spoke in favor of Option 2 during the meeting.

Excerpts from a report by Rivko Knox, Advocacy Chair, LWVMP:

The CCEC met on September 15, 2016. Part of its business was to discuss the impact of SB 1516 and HB 2296, which of course made dramatic changes to election law, to include campaign finance rules, disclosure requirements, etc. Staff had prepared a memo outlining the impact and rationale for the proposed changes.

In the memo it is recognized that there is a potential conflict between the requirements of the laws cited above and the CCEC's own rules, adopted in compliance with the goal of the Clean Elections law and protected by the Voter Protection Act (VPA).

The Commission voted to publish the proposed rules changes for public comment along with a statement that says that the Commission proposes to proceed with revisions *consistent with its (own) legal duties* (thus implying that where it feels that the VPA-protected goal of the law is violated, it will not proceed).

Note: The most important parts of the Memo are included at the end of this report. Within a week or so I (Rivko) will draft a statement that I will recommend LWVAZ submit during the public comments period, as soon as those dates are provided by the Commission.

In compliance with its rules, Commission staff then drew a random sample of Clean Election candidates from the Primary election, who will be audited, whether they won or not. A similar procedure will apply after the General election. Two of the four primary 'clean' Corporation Commission candidates will be audited and 13 of the 'clean' legislative candidates. An outside CPA firm will conduct the audit.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Gina Roberts, who is in charge of public education. The range of public education efforts undertaken by the CCEC is very impressive, something that all the Commissioners commented on. Ms. Roberts reported on the voter turnout in the recent primary election--29% of registered voters, slightly higher than prior primary elections. She reported that 172 out of 175 Primary candidates submitted statements for the Voters Education Guide, which was printed in English and Spanish, and was available in large print and in Navajo and even in an oral version provided from Sun Sounds. It was also stated that questions for the Clean Election debates could be submitted in advance digitally and the same will be true for the General election debates. It was pointed out that the CCEC website is a one stop shop for information about elections.

CCEC educated voters using: radio, digitally, on TV, print, using Pandora, other social media, an app and billboards. Ms. Roberts said that many local election officials charged with educating voters use the CCEC's materials. Staff spent \$1,303,170 on all the various types of public education. Several Commissioners stated they felt that public education was the most important thing the Commission does.

Both Sam Pstross, of AzAN, and I spoke. We stressed our organizations' support for the voter outreach the Commission does and for putting the proposed rules out for public comment. I emphasized (again, for the public record) the role of LWVAZ in the creation of the CCEC, our position in opposition to SB1516, our support of public comments--which I said LWVAZ would likely participate in--and our continuing concern about the potential compromise of the CCEC's mission/goals and violations of the VPA as a result of SB1516.

Excerpt from Clean Elections' Staff Memo (see "Note" above)

Included in order that you get a tiny idea of the complexities involved.

Legal framework

The staff recommendation again attempts to avoid conflict where possible with the SB1516 language. However, the fact remains that there are **numerous Voter Protection Act (VPA) as well as equal protection and other issues raised by the measure. Attempts to directly limit commission enforcement are plain VPA violations.**

However, other issues exist. . . . The **cross-references alone raise legal questions**. For example, what is the **factor that should be used to adjust campaign finance limits?** Inflation, as the unamended Clean Elections Act states, or \$100 as SB1516's companion HB2297 calls for. (The rule proposal seeks to address cross reference issues on permitted campaign contributions and their limits by applying ARS 16-941(B) to the new statutory sections.)

Additionally, the **exemptions from the definitions of contribution and expenditure have been vastly expanded**. For example, a corporation or union can now directly contribute to a political party for certain activities, A.R.S. 16-911(B)(5), and parties can in turn make coordinated expenditures on behalf of candidates that are not contributions at all. Thus, although the party cannot directly write a check to a candidate with corporate-generated funds, A.R.S. 16-915(B), the services of the party are not contributions at all. Similarly, all legal costs may be paid by any entity, including corporations and unions, regardless of their purpose and these donations will be both unlimited and undisclosed. A.R.S. 16-911(B)(6)(c). Individuals, for example, may make donations of food, property usage and invitations that are not limited or reported. A.R.S. 16-911(B). Other provisions allow expansion of the internal communication by entities to groups nominally related to the entity in coordination with candidates **free from limit or disclosure**, A.R.S. 16-911((B)(10) and expands the facilities that can be made available by individuals and corporations and unions to candidates free from limit or disclosure, A.R.S. 16-911 (B)(11). These issues and issues like them could raise **cross-reference problems as they tend to allow for greater donations and less disclosure which could be seen as contrary to the anti-corruption purposes of the Clean Elections Act**. These issues are in addition to the U.S. and State constitutional issues noted in staff's May 2016 memo to the Commission.

During the session, the Commission advised the legislature of the risks of creating two parallel systems. Now, we recommend using the new limits statutes and adjustments for discussion purposes and so indicating by rule. **But the legal conflict is open and apparent**. We therefore recommend the Commission continue to note its legal concerns in proposals circulated for public comment.

Therefore, we recommend the Commission include in its notices the following language: The legality of provisions of SB1516 and HB2297, and their companion measure HB2296 (all enacted in the 2016 legislative session) remain open to question. In the interest of consistency, the Commission proposes to adopt rules consistent with those changes where possible. The Commission's rule makings are exempt from Title 41, Ch. 6, Article 3, pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-956.

Calendar and Website

The Calendar is constantly updated on our website at lwvmetrophoenix.org. Click on 'calendar' in the left side menu. Or click here: <http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/calendar.html>

Highlights

Sept. 27 All Day - LWVMP Facebook: National Voter Registration Day (see information elsewhere in newsletter)

Fri. Oct. 7 evening - Watch LWVMP Facebook for details on Voter Guide Release Mixer & Membership Event at Keegan's (32nd St & Camelback)

Mon. Oct. 10 Public Forum for Candidates for U.S. Senate (McCain/Kirkpatrick) Hosted by LWVAZ and CBS Partners

CANCELLED. "The LWVAZ will not be holding this forum, and regrets not providing further information to voters about the candidates on this national race."

If you'd like further information, please contact an LWVMP Board member.

Wed. Oct. 28 9:30 a.m. - Phoenix Women's Commission Economic Forum

LWVMP President Care Lengel will give a keynote address. Rivko Knox and others will speak on panel discussion.

Voting Rights Summit

Hosted by LWV Northwest Maricopa County and ASU

Jan. 7, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

ASU New College West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ

LWVMP Community Team Meetings – All may attend anywhere!

East Valley Team Hosts Book Discussion -- All are Welcome!

Thursday, September 29th, at 11:30 a.m. (brown bag)

Marge Thornton's home, 400 E. Alameda, Tempe, 480-966-6053 for more info.

The book is *Notorious RBG* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik.

RBG stands for Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice.

Please bring your suggestions for a book to read for our next session, as the group wants to make a decision on the 29th about what to read next!

Community Teams, cont.

East Valley

Thursday, September 22nd, at 11:30 a.m. Marge Thornton's home, 400 E. Alameda, Tempe, 480-966-6053 for more info. (brown bag lunch)

What's Next for EV Team?

Scottsdale Team Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 9:30 am

The home of Judy Levine, 8155 E. Del Caverna Drive, Scottsdale (480-907-6800)

We will be discussing the Desert Discovery Center, among other things.

Phoenix Community Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 am refreshments, 10 am program

The Terraces, 16th St. between Glendale Ave. and Northern (turn west on Morten: 7550 N. 16th St.)

Information on the two Nov. 8th ballot issues will be provided, along with the LWVAZ Voter Guide. More information to come.

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